

Claim 2 (Amended) A method of preventing contamination of the canvas according to Claim 1, wherein the ^{silicone} oil is emulsified with a surfactant.

Claim 3 (Amended) A method of preventing contamination of the canvas according to Claim 2, wherein the ^{silicone} oil is further diluted with water.

Claim 4 (Amended) A method of preventing contamination of the canvas according to Claim 2, wherein the ^{silicone} oil is diluted with water heated to a temperature in the range of 50 to 80°C immediately before spraying.

Claim 5 (Amended) A method of preventing contamination of a canvas for pressing a paper strip against a surface of drum-dryers used for drying the paper strip in a paper machine, said method comprising the following steps 1) to 5):

- 1) supplying a silicone oil to a surface of an out-roll;
- 2) shifting the silicone oil from the surface of the out-roll to the canvas;
- 3) causing the silicone oil to permeate through the canvas and adhere to the surface thereof under heat and pressure;
- 4) pressing a paper strip against the canvas, causing the silicone oil to be transferred to the paper strip; and
- 5) replenishing the silicone oil depleted after transferred from the canvas.

Please CANCEL Claim 1.

Please CANCEL Claim 6.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Per the Official Action dated October 16, 2002, claims 1-7 stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 35 U.S.C. §102, and 35 U.S.C. §103.